REPORT

OF THE

Open Air Mission Committee.

(Received and adopted by the Evangelical Union 9th October, 1860.)

On the fifth day of March last year your Committee was appointed to negociate and arrange for the holding of a series of Open Air Services during the Summer Sabbath afternoons; the series to be suitable to the masses not attending any place of worship.

The novelty of the undertaking in this community required that it should be entered upon with some degree of caution. A few rules were required in the undertaking:—The Minister officiating for the day was to have the full direction and management of the meeting for the hour; he was to use what books, sing what Psalms and Hymns he deemed suitable, and call the aid of any he might feel desirous to assist him; but he would require to close the service and dismiss the meeting in one hour.

When unable to obtain Clergymen, your Committee agreed that the Meetings should be held, the Scriptures read, and endeavor to get a layman to deliver an address.

After several ineffectual attempts to get Ministers to engage in it earlier, it was not till the 24th June, when the Rev. Mr. Munro preached at the Market Square, to a very numerous and attentive audience. And every Sabbath afternoon since we have continued to assemble in various places throughout the city, in the following order:

N.	DATE.	PLACE.	NAME.	SUBJECT.
1	24 June,	Market Square,	Rev. Mr. Munro,	Hear the Word of the Lord.
2	1 July,	Cemetery,	" Mr. Hunter,	Follow Jesus,—(Christ's invit'n).
3	8 "	Do.,	" Mr. Coffin,	Value of the Soul.
4	15 "	Town Clock,	" Mr. Boyd,	God's plan for the sinner's deliv'rne.
5	22 "	Do.,	" Mr. Hall,	Behold the Lamb of God.
6	29 "	Grand Parade,	" Mr. Philp,	Behold I stand at the door & knock.
7	5 Aug.,	Do.,	" Mr. Pratt,	Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.
8	12 "	Market Square,	Mr. Munro, N. Y.,	Address.
9	19 "	Do.,	Mr. Russell,	Personal Religion.
10	26 "	Wellington Barracks,	Rev. Mr. Corey,	Seek ye first the kingdom of God & His righteousness.
11	2 Sept.,	Fresh Water,	Judge Marshall,	Necessity of Conversion.
12	9 "	Town Clock,	Rev. Mr. McGregor,	Joy in heaven over the sinner's ret'n.
13	16 "	Parade,	" Mr. Humphrey,	What shall I do to be saved.
14	23 "	Town Clock,	" Mr. Jardine,	If any man shall be my disciple let him deny himself.
15	30 "	Pleasant Sreet,	" Mr. McGregor,	Value of the soul.

The Rev. Mr. Munro agreed to deliver the closing address of the season, but, for the first time, the weather was unfit for holding the service. In all fifteen meetings being held: that is over one for every Evangelical Church in the City.

It would be saying too little to simply express the fact that the "audiences were attentive" as well as numerous; they were in many instances serious and solemn,—the only interruption, on one or two occasions, proceeding from the noise of some children playing in the neighborhood, who had never been trained to habits of Church going, or even to spiritual worship—but even they might be easily subdued into attentive listening by a few persons mingling with them.

We have here recorded the names of the men officiating

and their subjects; other results we cannot mention, but they are recorded in the book of God's remembrance, and if successful on that day "when the books are opened" will testify to the riches of the glory of His grace. If unsuccessful they will testify to the praise of the glory of Omnipotent Justice. At all events your Committee feel encouraged at the indications of so much zeal and spiritual life engendered among the several Churches of the City—every one of which has given its unqualified approbation of the step, if not their aid. At the truly catholic spirit so prominent in the movement, and at the very favorable treatment the undertaking has received at the hands of the proprietors of the city press, who have uniformly inserted their notices and acted in a very courteous spirit toward the movement, to all of whom they beg to return cordial thanks.

There are some Clergymen who had and perhaps still have conscientious scruples against open-air preaching who might be willing to undertake the further prosecution of the effort during the winter in some commodious building, and to them they would now assign it for the present.

The Committee record their grateful acknowledgment to the several Clergymen and other gentlemen who so willingly came up to the work. Also to Mr. McAlpine, who so ably officiated as Presenter in the absence of and with Mr. Morton, the Halifax City Missionary; to whom they also record their thanks.

An expenditure of two pounds and eight shillings was incurred for printing and getting the bills posted up.—Even this may be saved on any future occasion. Thus showing how much good may be attempted at comparatively no expense.

The hand of God has been seen in His past dealings with us,—for a series of Sabbaths extending over fifteen weeks the hour for the Open-air Service has been one at which the

weather was most auspicious. Also from the marked good behaviour of the hundreds who assembled—never requiring an appeal to the police for any assistance to keep the peace. In other places it has been found necessary at times to call in the assistance of the police, and there, as in Glasgow, the Ministers and other citizens had to "assert" their right to preach the Gospel of the blessed Jesus in the very places where His holy name is almost every day blasphemed. Altogether the work has been auspiciously begun, and the Committee, in retiring from the office they held, lay their efforts down as an humble offering at the feet of Jesus, praying that the grand result may be the bringing perishing souls to Him. The husbandman has long patience when he casts the precious seeds even in good soil. And so would they as the spiritual husbandmen of Christ cast in the seeds by this wayside, and in patience and faith hope for an abundant harvest, though we may not see it on earth. This means has been blessed abundantly in other lands; they expect a blessing here. But ever feeling and seeking to feel the language of the Church of old as ours—"Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy Great Name be all the praise."

All which is respectfully submitted by the retiring Committee of the Open-air Mission.

Signed in name of the Committee by

P. C. HILL, *Chairman.*

J. FARQUHAR, *Secretary.*

OPEN-AIR MISSION COMMITTEE:

P. C. HILL, *Chairman,*
JAMES FARQUHAR, *Sec'ty,*
A. K. DOULL, *Treasurer.*
WM. ACKHURST,
THOS. F. KNIGHT,
D. MCEWAN,
JUDGE MARSHALL,
M. HERBERT,
THOMAS BROWN.

The Commitee meets every Monday morning, immediately after the Prayer Meeting.